

REMARKS

The examiner has rejected claims 1-15 as anticipated by *Sutter*, U.S. Patent No. 5,924,094. As amended, claim 1 requires that a first set of records be copied to the maintenance area, thereby creating a second set of records in the maintenance area. The claim further requires that, in response to a user action, a record *in the second set of records* be modified. Applicant submits that *Sutter* fails to disclose the step of, in response to a user action, modifying a record in the second set of records.

Sutter discloses a system in which a user interacts with a local copy of a database, which is periodically synchronized with a central server. (col. 3, lines 41-52). Significantly, in *Sutter*, all user interaction takes place in the local set of data. Indeed, *Sutter* specifically states that "all application transactions are against the local database."¹

The examiner acknowledges this in paragraph 17 of the office action, and states that the local database in *Sutter* corresponds to the claimed "base area." As amended, however, the claim requires that, in response to a user action, a record in the *second* set of records, i.e., in the *maintenance* area, be modified. This step is directly contrary to the teaching of *Sutter* that all application transactions are against the local database (base area).

The remaining claims contain all of the limitations of claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Applicant amends the claims solely to expedite prosecution of this application. The amendments are not to be construed as an admission that the claims prior to amendment are unpatentable. Furthermore, in addition to the above arguments, there may be other good grounds for patentability of the claims.

Enclosed is a \$110 check for the fee for a Request for Continued Examination and a \$1020 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

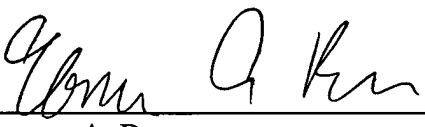
¹ *Sutter*, col. 3, lines 41-44.

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Respectfully submitted,

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